



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

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NEWS RELEASE

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## NEW RULES TO GOVERN ACCESS TO WATERS OF BEAR LAKE

Utah's prolonged drought has turned what used to be a short stroll to the blue water of Bear Lake into an arduous walk across exposed lakebed. Many people instead have made it a short drive to the water's edge with accompanying problems associated with vehicle use, impromptu campsites, sanitation and other safety issues.

"The low water level has created numerous problems," says Craig Pettigrew, area manager for the Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. "For example, landowners adjacent to the lake feel their right to an unimpaired view has been compromised, while other visitors routinely drive motorized vehicles on the lakebed, which is normally prohibited."

A Bear Lake Management Plan is being implemented in an attempt to bring problems under control. "We've been studying the issues for the last couple of seasons," explains Pettigrew. "General rules have been established that apply to the entire lake, and seven management areas have been created, each with specific rules."

A brochure denoting use areas and rules is now available to the public. A copy of the brochure may be obtained by calling or visiting the Logan area office of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, 1780 North Research Parkway, Suite 104, North Logan, (435) 752-8701. Brochures are also available at all area offices of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, or at the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Signage explaining rules, as well as regulatory signage, will be posted at all public access points and beach areas. General rules include:

- Speed limit of 15 mph to and from water's edge. Parallel driving to water's edge is prohibited.
- No parking of motorized vehicles within 100 feet of water's edge.
- Permit required to operate motorized vehicle on lakebed in selected areas.
- Pets will be allowed on beach.

Questions concerning beach rules may be directed to the Logan area office of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, (435) 752-8701.

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